no notice of it till date. I am compelled to raise this issue. Sir, farmers are being exploited today. You know that 80 percent population of our country is dependent on agriculture, 20 percent population is dependent on factories, and 30 percent population is poor only because of the fact that businessmen are exploiting the farmers. When crops are realy for harvesting it comes in the hands of businessman who is turn reduce its price to such a low extent that the farmers are forced to sell their crops even below its production cost. Farmer's of Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan and of other provinces are not getting reasonable prices for cotton. Lakhs of farmer's are sitting in queue in markets, they are a pitiable lot. Cotton is sold in markets at the rate of 1100 rupees per quintal. I am pointing it out through you that four to five quintals of cotton is produced in an acre whereas five thousand rupees are spent per acre on fertilizers, Seeds and medicines from the time of sowing of its seeds to the harvesting. Cotton produced by farmers is sold at a throwaway price. When the farmers sell their produce in the market it is sold cheaply but its price doubles when it is sold by businessmen. Wheat was sold at the rate of four hundred rupees per quintal in April but now it is being sold at the rate of nine hundred rupees per quintal. This is exploitation of the farmers and labourers. Our Prime Minister propagates himself as being the won of a farmer through big posters, radio and television. If the son of a farmer be the Prime Minister of this Country and such exploitation of the farmers goes on, you can imagine the plight in the rest of the Country. I would also demand from the Government that the rate of Cotton be fixed at the minimum of two thousand and five hundred rupees per quintal so that the farmers might get reasonable price of their produce. I would also request that in the first five year plan budget allocation for irrigation was 16 percent whereas land for irrigation was not the same as it is today. Today there has been increase in the area of land to be irrigated but only 6 percent has been allocated in the budget.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nihal Chand ji, reading out a written paper is not allowed during zero hour.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : I want to request to the Government through you that the budget for irrigation be enhanced from 6 percent to 25 percent and price of cotton should be fixed at two thousand and five hundred rupees per quintal so that the farmer's may get reasonable price of their produce. I would also request that Akashvani and Doordarshan should give coverage to the 5 labourers who on fast unto death and the Government should think about them.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this House and to the Government an important issue. Though this issue is pertaining to my constituency and to my district, it is an important issue.

Sir, in my district, Birbhum, there is a Colliery, that is Kankartala Colliery Field under the Eastern Coalfield Limited. Now the work has been suspended in the Kankartala Colliery Limited. Now the work has been suspended in the Kankartala Colliery Field and the mining operation has been stopped. The Government wants to hand over this Colliery Field to the private sector. I do not know the reason for that. The Government took a stand to hand over the existing Colliery Field to the private sector. I urge upon the Government to immediately start the mining operation in the Karnataka Colliery Field and not to hand over this Colliery Field to the private sector.

I would like to raise another very important point that illegal mining and illegal coal trafficking are going on in the entire colliery belt in my district and in the bordering areas of Bihar. They are going unchecked. I have pointed out this matter to the administration several times but still they are unchecked. There is a vast reserve of a very good quality coal. This reserve should be exploited by having a new project for exploitation of good quality of coal in the district of Birbhum and in the bordering areas of Bihar.

[Translation]

I would like to know the reaction of the Government on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the question of poor weavers in the House through you. There are 10 thousand poor weavers in Handloom Corporation at Nagpur who are dying out of starvation. Their condition have become pitiable cotton yarn are not available with them for the last four months they are not getting any work. Despite their pitiable plight atrocities are being committed on them, be it the Central Government or the State Government no body is concerned about them. Efforts have been made several time but all in vain, they could not solve the problems of the weavers. Their position is going from bad to worse. The people working in handloom corporation took their case to the Supreme Court of India and the court pronounced judgement in their favour that the facilities should be given to them by treating them as industrial labourers but the said verdict is not being implemented.

Therefore I request the Central Government through you that any Minister or Secretary at apex level should be sent their to get this matter because the State Government as well as the Central Government is responsible for this. Today more than ten thousand workers of Handloom Corporation demand justice from you. Please do justice to them. They should get work as per the judgement of the Supreme Court. They should have got justice according to the verdict pronounced, but they are not getting it. We have had talks with the officers of the Corporation. They told if they will have to

implement the judgement of the Supreme Court, then they will be forced to close down the Handloom Corporation. This is a lame excuse. If anybody is unable to pay the minimum wages, he has no right to run any factory. This is how law of the land is! So, if they are not paid the minimum wages, action should be taken against the defaulting officers and the weavers should be given one lakh rupees each as compensation before rendering them jobless by closing down the Handloom Corporation. Thus they will become selfreliant. I urge upon the Central Government to pay attention towards this immediately.

SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL (Jalore) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I want to draw attention of the Government towards the Jalore and Sirohi districts of my constituency where fluoride is very much in excess in the water and that is why people of those villages are becoming hunch backed. They are unable to work. They have become lazier. I demand the Government that safe drinking water be provided there so that they are not forced to drink fluoride contaminated water and they are able to become physically fit.

Mr. Deputy .Speaker Sir, our Prime Minister has always been making announcements that safe drinking water will be made available to every citizen of the country. I, therefore, urge the Government through you that safe drinking water may be provided there at the earliest.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Government on an important issue. There is an illegal slaughter house in my constituency and cows, buffalos, bulls and even calves are being slaughtered there. Local people including myself has raised voice in this regard many times but all in vain and now I myself conducted raid with the District Magistrate and Senior Superintendent of Police and found all the allegations levelled against them correct and the said slaughter House was closed down by order issued by the Distirct Magistrate. Near that illegal slaugther House was that the pond which was located since long has been contaminated by the animal blood. The environment of the entire city has been polluted to the extent that nobody can live there. If you travel to Khurja from Delhi there will be no need at all to ask about Khurja. Where you start feeling foul smell you can guess that you have approached the city.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the people operating the slaughter house have been protected by anti social elements. I conducted raid on the said slaughter house with the District Megistrate and though all our allegations were found correct and the said slaughter house has been closed down, yet some persons put the pressure on the District Magistrate and the administration in such a manner that an enquiry has been ordered against the S.H.O. who executed the orders of the Distirct Magistrate and the Senior Superintendent of Police promptly to close down the above slaughter house and efforts are also being made to transfer him from there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the District Magistrate issued a licence on 24th April, 1996 for slaughtering bulls in the city though communal riots have erupted in the Khurja town five times so far. Such license will encourage slaughter of cows as well because the tissues of bull and cow meat are same whereas tissue of buffalow meat is different. It can easily be ascertained by examining the meat that whether it is of a cow or buffalow, but now licence has been issued to slaughter the bulls it will be difficult to ascertain differentiate between the meat of a Bull or a Cow and slaughtering of Cow will start there under this pretext.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I demand from the Central Government that the the officers who had executed their duties properly to closedown the above slaughter house, they should not be transferred from there and no action should be taken against them and such slaughter houses operating all over the country should be closed down. Sir, through you I wanted to raise this issue only.

[English]

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI (Belgaum) : Sir, the hon. Minister of Railways has assured the House during his Budget Speech that work about the new survey line Kittur-Bailhongal-Sogal-Yellammagudda-Dharwar will take place. Though the hon. Minister has assured the House, the survey work has not yet started.

Kittur is a historical place. The Fort of Kittur Rani Chennamma who fought against the British for Independence, is located there. Bailhongal is a business centre. Sogal and Yellammagudda are tourist and pilgrimage centres, respectively. By taking up this new survey line, the distance between Hubli and Dharwar will be less than 80 kilometres.

Hence, as per the assurance given by the hon. Minister of Railways, the new survey line work should be taken up immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' (East Delhi) : Sir, there are fifty five thousand police personnel and there is growing discontent among them, because they are not being paid ration money, whereas ration money is paid to the police personnel in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. Delhi is the capital of the Country, all Ambassies are located here, all V.I.P's are residing here, security arrangements are to be made for them and the personnel of Delhi Police have to do their duties ranging from eighteen to twenty hours at a stretch. Not only this but gross injustice is also being meted out to them. They were being paid exgratia payment for last several years. They were being paid one months pay in a year but the said exgratia payment has not been given to